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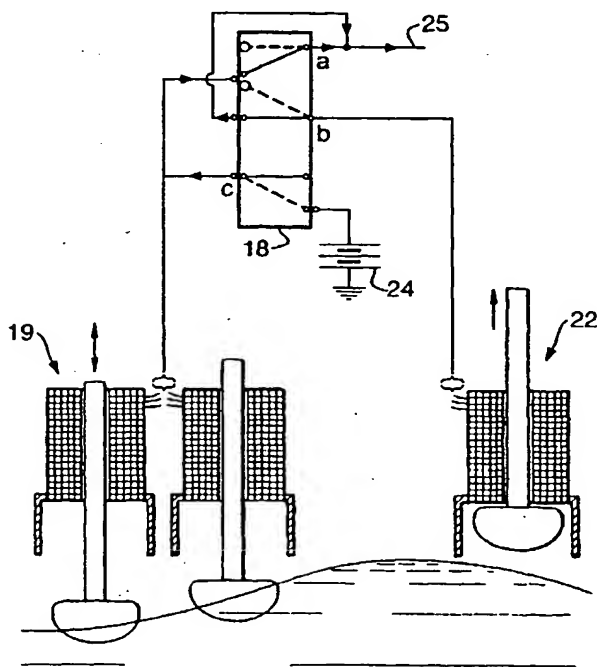
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(54) Title: METHOD OF OPERATION FOR A SELF-PROTECTING WAVE ENERGY CONVERSION PLANT



(57) Abstract: A wavefarm (10) comprises a multiplicity of
wave energy converters, comprising linear generators (19, 20,
21) and (22) which are driven by floats immersed in the sea,
(14). In normal wave conditions, all of the generators supply a
land line (17) via a control unit (18). In the event of inclement
conditions, one of more of the generators are switched to lin-
ear motors, and these are then powered by those generators
remaining in the sea, to withdraw their floats into protective
cavities (23). The process is repeated sequentially until all
but the last one or few of the generators have withdrawn their
floats. Finally, these last are withdrawn by connecting them
to an alternate power source eg a battery, (24), again via the
control unit (18).